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100-39749  
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rose \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

6454  
DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 RAT/EA

ON 4-30-92

PEK STATE LETTER Dd A-21-84  
State info unclear mjr 11/4/93

February 8, 1964.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Director,

Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I am attaching copies of telegrams exchanged in the Department's Roger Channel with the Embassy in Mexico City which bear on the Oswald case and which the Department is obligated to make available to the Warren Commission. Because of the sensitivity of some of the material in this exchange (see, for example, paragraph 6 in Embassy's telegram 1201 of November 28, 1963), we will seek an understanding with the Commission that there be an opportunity to review any report which might be based on such material and which the Commission may wish to make public. Since these messages contain information that may have been developed by your representatives in Mexico City, I would appreciate receiving your concurrence in our turning these messages over to the Warren Commission for study.

J. Alexis Johnson

J. Alexis Johnson

12 ENCLOSURE  
Attachments:

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

MAR 4 1964

EXP. PROC

25 FEB 11 1964

REC-9

22 MAR 13 1964

21-10383

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 12-2-39749

Watch out! Leave it  
entirely up to State  
Dept. as to what they do  
as to material trans-  
mitted & as to any  
restrictions they place  
on it. We have none.

2235  
5-188

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

39 M

~~SECRET~~

Action

TNRD

Info

DE RUEHCR  
DE RUESMO 030 28/1820Z  
Z 281815Z ZEA  
FM AMEMBASSY (MEXICO CITY)  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC  
STATE GRNC

BT

S E C R E T  
SENT SECSTATE (1201) FLASH

ROGER CHANNEL

FOR SECRETARY RUSK AND ALEXIS JOHNSON

MANY THINKS FOR YOUR TELEGRAM 961. PERHAPS I SHOULD DESCRIBE  
BRIEFLY THE BACKGROUND FOR MY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE OSWALD  
CASE.

1. IN READING OSWALD'S RATHER COMPLETE DOSSIER I GOT AN IMPRESSION OF A TRUCULENT, AGGRESSIVE, DEMANDING PERSON, TOO LAZY TO STICK LONG WITH EITHER SCHOOL OR JOB, WHO WAS IN REBELLION AGAINST SOCIETY AND WHO HAD IN CONSEQUENCE TURNED TO MARX AND LENIN. HE HAD LITTLE MONEY, THE OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT A WIFE AND CHILD AND AMBITION. I DID NOT GET AN IMPRESSION OF A MAN WHO WOULD KILL A PERSON HE HAD NEVER MET FOR A CAUSE, WITHOUT OFFERS FROM THE APPARTUS TO WHICH HE APPARENTLY BELONGED WHEN THERE WAS NOTHING IN IT FOR HIM. FROM THE BEGINNING I THEREFORE HAD A FEELING--SUBJECTIVE AND UNPROVEN TO BE SURE-- THAT EITHER IN MEXICO OR THE UNITED STATES SOMEONE HAD GIVEN HIM AN ASSIGNMENT AND MONEY.

2. THIS FEELING WAS STRENGTHENED BY HIS ATTEMPT TO GET A TRANSIT VISA THROUGH CUBA AND, APPARENTLY, A RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT VISA SO THAT HE COULD SETTLE DOWN IN ODESSA. ASIDE FROM THE OBVIOUS PREPARATION FOR A "GET AWAY" THE DESTINATION OF ODESSA STRUCK ME AS ODD. WHY WOULD A PENNILESS, UNEDUCATED WORKER WITH A FAMILY WHOSE LAST RUSSIAN JOB APPARENTLY EARNED HIM BARELY ENOUGH TO KEEP BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER WANT TO GO TO ODESSA? ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION WOULD BE HE EXPECTED TO HAVE ENOUGH MONEY AND TO BE ABLE TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE.

~~GIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO  
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR  
RELEASE OF GIA INFORMATION~~

~~IN THIS DOCUMENT, as sanitized~~

~~SDH 4/28/93~~

PAGE TWO RUESMO 30 S E C R E T

3. IT DID NOT SEEM PLAUSIBLE THAT KHRUSHCHEV IS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN RECKLESS ENOUGH TO HIRE AN UNSTABLE

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

6. ~~AT~~ THIS POINT WE GOT THE TWO INTERCEPTS OF THE DORTICOS. HERNANDEZ ARMAS TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS. BOTH SHOW HAVANA'S GREAT CONCERN THAT THE MEXICAN POLICE MAY HAVE QUESTIONS DURAN ABOUT MONEY. THIS TENDS TO CORROBORATE ALVARADO'S STORY ABOUT THE ~~(X)~~

PAGE THREE RUESMO 30 SECBE 1

NOR WAS IT BASED ON ANY UNCERTAINTY ABOUT DOING THE BEST THAT COULD BE DONE WITH THE ASSETS WE HAVE AND THE FACTS WE HAD TO GO ON. EACH IS THE BEST IN HIS FIELD THAT I HAVE WORKED WITH FOR TWENTY YEARS. EACH IS BASED ON ANY LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY, BASED ON THE LEGAL ATTACHE WERE HOLDING ANYTHING BACK FROM ME; WE HAVE BEEN MEETING TOGETHER ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY. NEITHER WAS IT US A LEAD HERE. I HAD AND HAVE NO WORRY EITHER THE CASES HERE DEVELOPED AT THE US END OF THE INVESTIGATION WHICH WOULD GIVE HERE IN THE HOPE THAT HE MIGHT KNOW ABOUT SOME FACT UNKNOWN TO US 5. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT I REQUESTED THAT THE FBI SEND A PERSON WITH HER, AND THAT OSWALD LEFT THE CONSULATE ANGRY.

4. WITH THESE INSTINCTIVE FEELINGS TO GO ON, I THOUGHT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT GIRL DURAN, KNOWN TO US AS A PROMISCUOUS TYPE WHO HAD RELATIONS WITH LECHUGA WHEN HE WAS AMBASSADOR HERE, TOLD THE TRUTH WHEN SHE TOLD THE MEXICAN POLICE THAT OSWALD DID NOT DISCUSS BUSINESS WITH ANYONE BUT HER, THAT ONLY THE VISA PROBLEM WAS DISCUSSED

WITH HER, AND THAT OSWALD LEFT THE CONSULATE ANGRY. HERE IN THE HOPE THAT HE MIGHT KNOW ABOUT SOME FACT UNKNOWN TO US 5. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT I REQUESTED THAT I REQUESTED THAT THE FBI SEND A PERSON WITH HER, AND THAT OSWALD LEFT THE CONSULATE ANGRY.

-2- 1201, NOVEMBER 28, FROM MEXICO CITY.

~~SECRET~~

173-10004

~~SECRET~~

-3- 1201, NOVEMBER 28, FROM MEXICO CITY

PASSING OF THE 6,500 DOLLARS. IN MY OPINION IT HAS PROBATIVE VALUE. HAVANA'S CONCERN IS underscored BY ITS WRITTEN PROTEST TO MEXICO REPORTED IN YESTERDAY'S EMBTEL 1197.

7. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE INTERCEPTS WE GOT ALVARADO'S STORY. SOMOZA COULD OF COURSE HAVE PUT HIM UP TO THE STORY OR HE MAY EXPECT MONEY FROM US OR WANT PUBLICITY. NEVERTHELESS THE WEALTH OF DETAIL HE GIVES IS STRIKING AND WITH ONE EXCEPTION WE HAVE THRU FAR BEEN UNABLE TO FIND EVIDENCE WHICH CONTRADICTS A SINGLE DETAIL. THIS EXCEPTION IS THAT WE CAN FIND NO EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WHO ADMITS TO HAVING TALKED TO ALVARADO (USING THE NAME JUAN KNECHT (PHONETIC) BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. HE HAS IMPRESSED EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE TALKED WITH HIM. HE HAS OFFERED TO TESTIFY EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER. HE IS A DOUBLE AGENT ( I UNDERSTAND HE IS A COMMUNIST RECRUITED FOR TRAINING IN CUBA AND ALSO BEING PAID THE THE NICARAGUAN SERVICE) BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW THE RUSSIANS OR THE CUBANS COULD WANT HIS STORY TOLD. HIS STORY CONTRADICTS EVERYTHING WE HAVE SEEN HERE ABOUT COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO GET ACROSS THE IDEA THAT RIGHTISTS NOT COMMUNISTS WERE INVOLVED.

8. WE KNOW THAT OSWALD HAD TO GO TO CUBAN CONSULATE HERE [A KNOWN COVER FOR CASTRO INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS] FOR THE ADDRESS OF THE OBSCURE HOTEL HE WAS STAYING AT.. THIS HAS PROBATIVE VALUE TOO.

9. I DO NOT PRETEND THAT ALL OF THIS IS BY ANY MEANS PROOF THAT OSWALD WAS CASTRO'S AGENT. I UNDERSTAND HOW FATEFUL MIGHT BE THE CONCLUSION THAT HE WAS AND HOW DIFFICULT AND RISKY IT WOULD BE TO TRY TO DISENGAGE AND SEPARATE THE SOVIET UNION FROM CASTRO IF IT WERE TO BECOME ESTABLISHED FACT THAT CASTRO WAS INVOLVED. BUT I CANNOT AGREE WITH THE SUGGESTION IN DEPTEL 969 THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS OF THOSE ALVARADO SAYS ARE INVOLVED. I MUST ALSO RESPECTFULLY RECORD MY DISAGREEMENT WITH MY LATEST INSTRUCTIONS THAT WE TAKE NO FURTHER INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE THE MEXICANS TO ARREST AND INTERROGATE.

10. BE THIS AS IT MAY, DEPARTMENT SHOULD CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT MEXICANS, ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE FROM CUBA FOR PAST ARRESTS AND FROM THE CARDENAS-COMMIE [ACTION OF THE PRI, ALREADY WISH TO RELEASE DURAN AND MEXICANS ARE PRESSING US FOR CONCURRENCE. MEXICANS OBVIOUSLY WILL BE GREATLY RELIEVED IF WE TAKE OFF PRESSURE FOR INVESTIGATION. IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO GET MEXICANS CRANKED UP AGAIN ONCE WE ]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-4- 1201, NOVEMBER 28, FROM MEXICO CITY.

TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF AND AS EMOTION CAUSED BY KENNEDY'S DEATH DECLINES HERE. MOREOVER, THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE THAT DURAN OR THE OTHER SUSPECTS WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER. THEREFORE REQUEST SOONEST INSTRUCTIONS ON FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS:

PAGE FOUR RUESMO 30 S E C R E T

(A). MEXICANS MUST BE TOLD IMMEDIATELY WHETHER WE WANT THEM TO CONTINUE WITH INVESTIGATION. IF WE DO WE MUST NOT ONLY TAKE POSITIVE POSITION BUT GIVE THEM A BASIS FOR DOING SO, INCLUDING MAKING ALVARADO AVAILABLE TO MEXICANS. OTHERWISE MEXICAN WILL DROP CASE ON THEIR OWN AND THIS QUESTION WILL HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY DEFAULT. OUR SAYING NOTHING WILL BE INTERPRETED AS LACK OF US INTEREST.

(B). MEXICANS ARE PRESSING US FOR IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT THAT DURAN SHOULD BE TURNED LOOSE BUT KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE. WHAT SHALL WE SAY. REQUEST IMMEDIATE ANSWER TO THIS SPECIFIC QUESTION.

(C). IF ALVARADO IS NOT TO BE TURNED OVER TO MEXICANS WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM? SHALL WE SEND THIS TO THE STATES FOR INTERROGATION? SHALL EMBASSY GIVE HIM POLYGRAPH TEST HERE? OR SHALL WE DO SOMETHING ELSE AND IF SO WHAT? GP-ONE

BT

CFN 1201 961 30 30 30 6,500 1197969 GP-ONE

MESSAGE UNSIGNED

Note: Advance copy to INR Duty Officer. 11/28/63. CWO-M

~~SECRET~~

40001-ELI